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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Doug Tanner, Faith and Politics Institute, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we ask Your blessing this day on the work of this House, and on the hearts and minds of its Members.

At this time of year when nights grow long and temperatures fall, guard us, we pray, against seeing those with whom we agree as bearers of light and warmth and those with whom we disagree as harbingers of darkness and cold. Awaken instead an awareness that dark places of ego and arrogance reside in each of us, as do light places of compassion and camaraderie. Save us from shallowness. Guide us toward depth of soul and strength of spirit. Remind us there are better angels in our nature to carry us toward the land of liberty and justice for all, if we will but open ourselves to their wisdom.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4387. An act to designate the Federal building located at 100 North Palafox Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the "Winston E. Arnow Federal Building".

H.R. 5651. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 515 9th Street in Rapid City, South Dakota, as the "Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 5706. An Act to designate the building occupied by the Government Printing Office located at 31451 East United Avenue in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "Frank Evans Government Printing Office Building".

H.R. 5773. An Act to designate the Federal building located at 6401 Security Boulevard in Baltimore, Maryland, commonly known as the Social Security Administration Operations Building, as the "Robert M. Ball Federal Building".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 987. An Act to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 3998. An Act to extend the Child Safety Pilot Program.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there is a great debate over the January 1 tax increases of over \$2,000 annually per family. I strongly believe we need to extend tax relief for

all Americans to create jobs, and I hope that the bipartisan issue of the adoption tax credit is also quickly extended.

While extremely rewarding, the adoption process may be expensive, often pricing out hardworking individuals and couples. To help keep the dream of parenting alive, Congress originally passed, and President Clinton signed, a \$5,000 tax credit per adoptive family. A great success, this credit was later increased to \$10,000. Today, however, we are facing a looming deadline that threatens this financial incentive and compromises the ability of average American families to adopt.

I urge Speaker PELOSI to immediately schedule a vote on H.R. 213, the Adoption Tax Relief Guarantee Act of 2009, before the adjournment of the 111th Congress. When it comes to the adoption process, lawmakers should work to advance the dream of a family.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ROADWAY SAFETY

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about roadway safety and infrastructure and the role it plays in saving lives and growing our economy.

Every year, approximately 34,000 men, women, and children die on our Nation's roadways. Although this number has decreased dramatically over recent years, we still have a long way to go.

One of the major factors in that decrease was a program this body created in the last transportation authorization bill called the Highway Safety Improvement Program. This common-sense program seeks to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries by making improvements to infrastructure

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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